

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting**      **Date:**                      November      10,      2010      (conference      call)

**Division:** Parks

**Agenda**      **Item:**                      Logan      Fishing      Access      Site      (R3)

**Action Needed:** Final Approval

**Time Needed on Agenda:** 5 minutes

**Background:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to accept a donation of 1.5 acres for the establishment of a new fishing access site (FAS) on the Gallatin River at Logan. The property is strategically located on a river reach where there is no established public boat launching site. The closest FAS's are Gallatin Forks eight river miles upstream and Headwaters State Park five miles downstream.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** FWP published an Environmental Assessment on acquisition of the Logan Fishing Access on June 3, 2010, and received 13 comments regarding the proposed action. Ten of the comments supported the proposal, one comment was neutral, and two comments opposed the proposed action. Opponents expressed concern about possible neighborhood impacts from parties and traffic at the site, and worried that a boat ramp might affect the flood-control berm that borders the river bank along the property boundary. Project supporters cited the substantial need for Gallatin River access at this location. On September 7, FWP issued a Decision Notice recommending the acquisition. No appeals were received during the 30-day appeal period

**Alternatives and Analysis:** The alternatives analyzed by FWP are to accept the proposed donation and establish the Logan Fishing Access Site, or to take no action. River access in this location is sorely needed and, despite considerable FWP effort to acquire a site at the Logan Bridge downstream, landowners there did not agree to sell or lease any property. FWP is confident that its enforcement and management efforts will keep the new FAS clean and safe for visitors and neighbors. In regard to the berm, FWP will coordinate closely with Gallatin County on engineering plans to ensure that boat access to the river will not impair its role in protecting adjoining land from seasonally high river flows. Additionally, site-development plans will be subject to public review and comment in a future environmental assessment.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** FWP recommends that the Commission approve acquisition of the Logan Fishing Access Site because of its importance for recreational access to the Gallatin River and because FWP can effectively mitigate any potential impacts to the Logan area.

**Proposed Motion:** I move that the Commission authorize the Department to accept the donation of approximately 1.5 acres on the Gallatin River at the Logan townsite in Gallatin County to be managed as the Logan Fishing Access Site.